

[20 March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Cement companies taken over by Lafarge

2568. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cement companies Lafarge has taken over in India;

(b) the total installed capacity of cement of Lafarge in India;

(c) whether Government will allow Lafarge to take over more large cement companies in India and allow them to hold the monopoly status; and

(d) in what manner Government plan to stop this and allow other players to be in the cement business so that consumer in India is not hurt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Two cement companies (viz. M/s. TISCO and M/s. Raymond Ltd. (Cement Division) have been taken over by Lafarge in India. The total installed capacity of these plants is 3.97 million tonnes (3.5 percent of the total capacity of large plants).

(c) and (d) In the liberalised scenario, the mergers and acquisitions of companies are dictated by market mechanism. Government sets broad policy guidelines. Acquisition of shares in an existing Indian company is permitted only if supported by a Board Resolution of the company and in accordance with relevant guidelines of SEBI/RBI.

Export of Indian System of Medicines

2569. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the value of homoeopathy, Ayurvedic, Unani etc; medicines exported abroad during the last three years, till date, country-wise; and

(b) the details of the steps being taken or proposed to be taken by Government for promotion of Indian System of Medicines for export purposes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Total value of Indian export of

homoeopathy, ayurvedic and unani medicines for the last three years, till date are as under:

Year	Export (Rs. in Crores)
1997-98	164.91
1998-99	135.33
1999-2000	148.89
April-October 2000	130.78

(SOURCE: DGCI&S)

Country-wise data is available in the DGCI&S publication viz. "Monthly statistics of the Foreign Trade of India".

(b) The Government is extending Market Development Assistance for exporters including the homoeopathy, ayurvedic and unani medicines exporters for competing in foreign markets through participation in overseas fairs, exhibitions, for mounting trade delegations and for conducting market surveys in foreign countries. Department of Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy under Government of India exclusively concentrates on all aspects of Indian System of Medicines to redress various problems faced by the industry.

Export of Wheat

2570. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat India has exported during the last six months with names of the countries to whom wheat has been exported;

(b) the price at which wheat has been exported; and

(c) whether India has exported wheat to Iraq, if so, the quantity of the commodity exported to that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) and (b) As per available data of DGCI&S Calcutta, the total quantity and value of wheat exported during the period April-November, 2000 have been 795 MT valued at Rs. 0.54 crore. The exports have been made to Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and South Africa.